

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8196

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD PASS HABIB AND SNEIDER

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJ: ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY GEORGE OGLE

REF: SEOUL 8163

BEGIN SUMMARY: OVER WEEKEND OGLE DISCUSSED HIS SITUATION FIRST WITH AMERICAN MISSIONARY GROUP AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS KOREAN CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS. UPSHOT HAS BEEN FLURRY OF ACTIVITY AND REPRESENTATIONS TO PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF IN SUPPORT OF OGLE. LATTER HAS ALSO DELIVERED LETTER AND STATEMENT OF INTENTION TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. DEC 9 TONGA ILBO CARRIES REPORT THAT OGLE "RECEIVED DEPORTATION ORDER THROUGH AMERICAN EMBASSY FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY." LEE SANG OCK, AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU CHIEF, SAID HE UNARE OF ANY SUCH ORDER. END SUMMARY.

1. AS HE STATED IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE DEC 8, REV GEORGE OGLE APPARENTLY CONSULTED WIDELY WITH AMERICAN MISSIONARY COMMUNITY AND KOREAN CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING HIS SITUATION OVERPAST WEEKEND WITH FOLLOWING RESULTS:

A. FOURTEEN MEMBERS OF FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMUNITY

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REPRESENTING PRESBYTERIANS, METHODISTS, COLUMBAN FATHERS AND

SISTERS, JESUITS, MARYKNOLL SISTERS, UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA AND BAPTISTS, HAVE ADDRESSED LETTER TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER LHO SHIN YONG. OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH EXPRESSES SENSE OF UNITY WITH REV OGLE, SAYS DEPORTATION WOULD JEOPARDIZE WHOLE PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE. LETTER ADDS INTERESTS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE, IN THE EYES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WOULD NOT BE SERVED BY DEPORTATION AND REQUESTS RECONSIDERATION OF OGLE CASE.

B. FATHER JOHN CORCORAN, DIRECTOR OF THE MARYKNOLL FATHERS, HAS ADDRESSED SEPARATE LETTER IN SUPPORT OF OGLE TO ACTING FONMIN.

C. EHWA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT KIM OK-KIL DISCUSSED SITUATION PERSONALLY WITH PRIME MINISTER EVENING DEC 8.

D. OGLE DELIVERED PERSONAL LETTER AND STATEMENT OF INTENTION TO ACTING FONMIN. LETTER OUTLINES OGLE'S DISSATISFACTION AT FAILURE OF ROKG TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH HIM AND TO PROVIDE OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF CHARGES AGAINST HIM. STATEMENT OF INTENTION READS: QUOTE: JESUS CHRIST WAS A POOR MAN. HE LIVED AND DIED FOR THE SALVATION AND FREEDOM OF MAN'S SOUL AND SOCIETY. I HAVE INTENDED THAT MY ACTS AS A MISSIONARY IN KOREA SHOULD FOLLOW THAT PATH. I HAVE NO POLITICAL OR SOCIAL AMBITIONS, AND SUPPORT NO POLITICAL PARTY. I DO, HOWEVER, INTEND TO PREACH CHRIST'S MESSAGE OF SALVATION, FREEDOM AND JUSTICE, AND TO SERVE THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING. UNQUOTE

E. EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT VARIOUS KOREAN ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING NCCC/K AND CATHOLIC HIERARCHY ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT EFFORT TO DISSUADE ROKG FROM EXPELLING OGLE.

2. IN PHONE CONVERSATION MORNING DEC 9, ACTING FONMIN LHO TOLD CHARGE THAT HE HAD RECEIVED DOCUMENTS FROM OGLE. HE ALSO SAID PRIMIN HAD DISCUSSED KIM OK-KIL'S REPRESENTATION WITH HIM. LHO SAID HE THOUGHT HE HAD DONE ALL HE COULD TO ASSIST OGLE AND THAT DECISION ON HIS EXPULSION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY HIGHER AUTHORITY.

3. TONGA ILBO DEC 9 CARRIES FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE HEADLINED
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"ORDER FOR FOREIGN MISSIONARY TO LEAVE COUNTRY." ARTICLE SAYS THAT OGLE HAD RECEIVED DEPORTATION ORDER "THROUGH AMERICAN EMBASSY FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY" ARTICLE GOES ON TO DESCRIBE MEETING BETWEEN CHARGE/OGLE IN WHICH CHARGE PURPORTEDLY CONVEYED ROKG STIPULATION THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID DEPORTATION, OGLE SHOULD SUBMIT LETTER AGREEING TO REFRAIN FROM CRITICIZING YUSHIN SYSTEM AND TO CONFINE HIMSELF TO RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES, (REFTEL).

4. LHO UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT ON TONGA STORY, BUT AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU CHIEF LEE SANG-OK, SAID THAT WHILE HE KNEW DEPORTATION UNDER CONSIDERATION, HE WAS UNAWARE THAT ANY ORDER HAD BEEN ISSUED. LEE LATER CALLED EMBASSY TO SAY THAT HE HAD CHECKED WITH MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND THAT NO ONE THERE WAS AWARE OF ANY DEPORTATION ORDER. CHARGE EMPHASIZED TO LEE THAT IN ANY COMMENTS TO PRESS ON MATTER, FOREIGN MINISTRY SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT EMBASSY HAD NOT ACTED AS MIDDLE MAN TO CONVEY ANY DECISION ON DEPORTATION TO OGLE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES FROM WESTERN WIRE SERVICES, EMBASSY HAS TAKEN LINE THAT WE ARE AWARE THAT ROKG MAY BE REVIEWING OGLE'S STATUS AS FOREIGN RESIDENT, THAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH ROKG AND WITH OGLE AND THAT EMBASSY MADE NO RECOMMENDATIONS TO OGLE REGARDING HIS OWN FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION.

6. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, IT LIKELY THAT OGLE CASE WILL BECOME PUBLIC CAUSE CELEBRE IN SHORT ORDER. PRESSURE ON BEHALF OF OGLE FROM CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY COULD STAY ROKG'S HAND. IT ALSO, HOWEVER, POSSIBLE THAT ROKG WILL FIND OGLE'S STATEMENT UNSATISFACTORY AND PUBLICITY WILL FORCE FORCE ROKG TO ISSUE DEPORTATION ORDER.

7. IN EVENT SUCH ORDER IS ISSUED, REQUEST AUTHORITY TO RESPOND TO PRESS QUERIES ALONG FOLLOWING LINE:
PRIOR TO ISSUING THE ORDER TO THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY, GEORGE OGLE, TO LEAVE KOREA A KOREAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. AT THAT TIME IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO DEPORT FOREIGN RESIDENT, SUCH A MOVE WOULD AROUSE CRITICISM OF ROKG ABROAD
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AND WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO OVERALL US-ROK RELATIONS. SUBSEQUENT TO THE DEPORTATION ORDER, THE EMBASSY EXPRESSED ITS REGRET TO ROKG THAT THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT FELT IT NECESSARY TO TAKE SUCH ACTION.

8. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSIONS WITH OGLE AND OTHER MISSIONARY GROUPS, EMBASSY HAS HAD MADE IT SCRUPULOUSLY CLEAR THAT IT NOT ACTING AS AGENT OF ROKG AND WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT IN ANY WAY RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO SPEAK OUT ON MATTER OF CONSCIENCE. CHARGE HAS STRESSED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO ACTING FONMIN, HOWEVER, THAT ROKG CRITICS, ESPECIALLY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN U.S. AND ELSEWHERE LIKELY TO REACT STRONGLY TO EXPULSION OF OGLE TO DETRIMENT US-ROK RELATIONS AND KOREA'S INTERNATIONAL STANDING.

9. WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS ASAP AS TO NATURE OF ANY
FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS DEPARTMENT MAY WISH US TO MAKE ON
BEHALF OF OGLE.
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